

**State of Vermont
Executive Department
A Proclamation**

WHEREAS, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis or ALS is better known as Lou Gehrig's disease; and

WHEREAS, ALS is a fatal neurodegenerative disease characterized by degeneration of cell bodies of the lower motor neurons in the gray matter of the anterior horns of the spinal cord; and

WHEREAS, the initial symptom of ALS is weakness of the skeletal muscles, especially those of the extremities; and

WHEREAS, as ALS progresses the patient experiences difficulty in swallowing, talking, and breathing; and

WHEREAS, ALS eventually causes muscles to atrophy and the patient becomes a functional quadriplegic; and

WHEREAS, ALS does not affect a patient's mental capacity, so that the patient remains alert and aware of his or her loss of motor functions and the inevitable outcome of continued deterioration and death; and

WHEREAS, on average, patients diagnosed with ALS only survive two to five years from the time of diagnosis; and

WHEREAS, ALS has no known cause, means of prevention, or cure; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs implemented regulations to establish a presumption of service connection for ALS; and

WHEREAS, a national ALS patient registry, administered by the Centers for Disease Control, is currently identifying cases of ALS in the United States and may become the single largest ALS research project ever created; and

WHEREAS, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Month increases the public's awareness of ALS patients' circumstances and acknowledges the terrible impact this disease has not only on the patient but on his or her family and the community and recognizes the research being done to eradicate this horrible disease;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Peter Shumlin, Governor, do hereby proclaim May 2016 as

AMYOTROPHIC LATERAL SCLEROSIS AWARENESS MONTH

in Vermont.



Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of
Vermont on this 4th day of April A.D. 2016

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'P' followed by a long horizontal line.

Peter Shumlin
Governor